

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A purification process of an amide compound comprising contacting characterized by making an amide compound-containing solution in contact with activated carbon under acidic conditions and separating activated carbon, wherein the amide compound has an unsaturated bond and is produced by contacting a nitrile compound with a microorganism fungus body containing nitrile hydratase or a processed product of the microorganism fungus body.
2. (Canceled) A purification process according to claim 1, wherein the amide compound-containing solution is a product solution obtained by a hydration reaction of a corresponding nitrile compound.
3. (Original) A purification process according to claim 2, wherein the amide compound has from 2 to 20 carbon atoms.
4. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A purification process according to claim 7, wherein the amide compound is acrylamide or methacrylamide.

10. (Original) A purification process according to claim 8, wherein the amide compound is acrylamide or methacrylamide.

11. (Currently amended) A purification process according to claim 9 10, wherein the amide compound-containing solution has pH of from 3.5 to 6.5 upon contacting with the activated carbon.

12. (Currently Amended) A purification process according to claim 11, characterized in that the amide compound-containing solution is prepared to be acidic by using an organic acid having an acid dissociation exponent of from 3.5 to 5.5 or by using said organic acid and a base.

13. (Original) A purification process according to claim 12, wherein the organic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

14. (Original) A purification process according to claim 13, wherein the activated carbon is activated carbon made from wood or palm shell as a raw material.

15. (Original) A purification process according to claim 14, wherein a temperature upon contact with said activated carbon is from 10 to 50°C.

16. (Original) A purification process according to claim 15, characterized in that after making said amide compound-containing solution in contact with said activated carbon, a liquid obtained by separating said activated carbon from said amide-containing solution is set at a saturation temperature or lower to deposit crystals.

17. - 24 (Canceled)

25. (New) The purification process according to claim 1, wherein the amide compound has from 2 to 20 carbon atoms.

26. (New) A purification process according to claim 10, wherein the amide compound-containing solution has pH of from 3.5 to 6.5 upon contacting with the activated carbon.

27. (New) A purification process according to claim 26, characterized in that the amide compound-containing solution is prepared to be acidic by using an organic acid having an acid dissociation exponent of from 3.5 to 5.5 or by using said organic acid and a base.

28. (New) A purification process according to claim 27, wherein the organic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

29. (New) A purification process according to claim 28, wherein the activated carbon is activated carbon made from wood or palm shell as a raw material.

30. (New) A purification process according to claim 29, wherein a temperature upon contact with said activated carbon is from 10 to 50°C.

31. (New) A purification process according to claim 30, characterized in that after making said amide compound-containing solution in contact with said activated carbon, a liquid obtained by separating said activated carbon from said amide-containing solution is set at a saturation temperature or lower to deposit crystals.